

# Town of Tiverton



## Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

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### MEETING MINUTES

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ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: AUGUST 8, 2013 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER  
346 JUDSON STREET  
TIVERTON, RI 02878

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Vice Chairman Thomas Humphrey called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Jonathan Cottrell and Leonard Schmidt. Jay Massa was also present representing the Newport County Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Item # 1 Approval of minutes meeting of June 2013**

Mr. Cottrell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. T. Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. T. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion.

#### **Item # 2 Review EDC website analytics**

The website analytics (number of hits, number of new hits, etc.) were distributed and briefly discussed.

#### **Item #3 Town meetings update:**

**Harbor Commission & Recreation Commission / Susan Gill:** Ms. Gill was not present

**Planning Board & Town Council / Len Schmidt:** Mr. Schmidt stated that the Planning Board meeting mostly dealt with residential developments and modifications to previous approvals. He noted that a Special Meeting had been held on July 23 to review the Tiverton Crossings / Carpionato plan. The EDC would be asked to comment at the Master Plan stage of review. Mr. Schmidt suggested that they should start thinking about the format of their response. He added that there were no items of note discussed at the Town Council meetings.

**Wastewater Management / Jon Cottrell:** Mr. Cottrell stated that the Wastewater Management Commission is in the midst of a major undertaking, as they are working on a plan for sewers as mandated by the State. He stated that the major hurdle is financing, with \$3 to \$5 million needed for each area to be sewerred (\$40 million total). Options are being reviewed with the help of a consultant.

**Zoning Board / Thomas Humphrey:** Mr. T. Humphrey gave a very brief recap.

**Four Corners Merchant Group / Scott Humphrey & Susan Gill:** Ms. Gill and Mr. S. Humphrey were not present.

**Item #4            Share meeting details between Tiverton EDC, Portsmouth's EDC and Business Association  
Scott Humphrey / Len Schmidt**

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the meeting that he attended with Mr. S. Humphrey and William Clarke and Ray Burberick of Portsmouth. It was relayed that the Portsmouth Business Association was established approximately 20 years ago, and that they have no formal charter or mission statement. The Association has about 30 members, who pay \$50 per year in dues. The Association operates independently from the Town. Mr. Schmidt noted that the Portsmouth EDC acts as an advisory group to the Town Council, and that Portsmouth has a staff economic development manager (Mr. Clarke) who collects data and also assists the Town Council.

Mr. Cottrell stated that he had spoken with many North Tiverton business people, all of whom were favorable to the idea of a Tiverton Business Association and would like more information. Mr. T. Humphrey stated that the Town Council had expressed interest in outreach to the business community. He suggested that a forum would be a good opportunity to present the idea of forming business association. The EDC could arrange a venue, and work with the Town Council to get State and local officials to attend to discuss regulations that impact the business community. Mr. T. Humphrey added that face-to-face invitations to the event would be preferable.

Mr. Schmidt asked if anything could be done to further this idea in the short term. It was agreed that the idea would be discussed with Mr. S. Humphrey and a workshop would be set up.

**Item #5            Tiverton Business Association (TBA): discuss the outreach to business to hear whether  
business is interested in the creation of a formal TBA  
Scott Humphrey / Len Schmidt / Jon Cottrell**

Discussion of this item was combined with Item #4.

**Item #6            Develop next step(s) / timeline for the proposed TBA if any.**

Discussion of this item was combined with Item #4.

**Item #7            Status update: Tiverton's Comprehensive Community Plan review.**

The Comprehensive Community Plan Update process would begin shortly, with EDC members invited to participate with a concentration on the Economic Development chapter of the Plan.

**Item #8            Status update: Expansion of the Villages on Mount Hope Bay**

The residential buildout of the development was briefly described. This item was on the Planning Board's July 16 agenda. [Residential] Phases IV and V would be completed, with the total unit count reduced by 60 due to the elimination of mid-rise structures.

**Item #9            Acknowledge Tiverton's new website.**

It was noted that the new town website (same address as the old one: [www.tiverton.ri.gov](http://www.tiverton.ri.gov)) is up and running.

**Item #10      New Business and Economic Development Items and Updates of Interest – All**

1. It was noted that there would be a business expo sponsored by the Secretary of State's office and the RIEDC held on September 10. There will be a table at the event promoting the Industrial Park.
2. A meeting of the Stone Bridge Committee is scheduled for August 13 at 9:00 AM.
3. The Planning Challenge Grant draft report (rezoning of north Main Road and Bliss Four Corners) will be uploaded to the EDC's website for review.

**Item #11      Next Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Adjournment**

The next meeting would be held on September 12, 2013. Mr. T. Humphrey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cottrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cottrell, Mr. T. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Submitted by: Kate Michaud      Approval Date: September 12, 2013